



Jordan Times

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جريدة تأثير يومية مستقلة تنشر في الأردن والخارج

U.N. panel assails Israel

GENEVA (Petra) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission has strongly condemned Israel's oppressive practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories in its bid to quell the intifada. At the conclusion of a six-week meeting, the commission demanded that the international community protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories from the Israeli practices. It also called for giving momentum to the efforts related to convening a Middle East peace conference to settle the Palestine problem. The commission also denounced South Africa, Iran and Afghanistan. It also recommended considering an agreement related to protection of children. It is noteworthy that there are 43 member countries in the commission.

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King: Protection of atmosphere is an international duty

24 states sign Hague Declaration

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — Jordan and 23 other countries from all corners of the globe Saturday signed a declaration that enlists the United Nations as a watchdog against pollution of earth's atmosphere.

The declaration called for the U.N. to promote and enforce protection of the earth's atmosphere, either by strengthening existing U.N. environmental agencies or creating a new body.

"We are starting a new era of international cooperation," Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, a major force behind the initiative, declared. "Our start today offers great hope."

The non-binding agreement stressed the need to combat global warming, the heating up of the atmosphere or "greenhouse effect" caused by the emission of carbon dioxide and other gases.

It praised recent efforts to reduce damage to the ozone layer which shields the earth from solar radiation and said such cooperation should swiftly be extended to combatting the greenhouse effect.

Scientists predict huge coal-

tal areas will flood as a result of melting polar ice caps and many farm areas will become too hot to produce crops unless atmospheric pollution is reduced.

Signatories of the declaration at the Hague's peace palace, home of the International Court of Justice, included His Majesty King Hussein, the presidents of France, Egypt, Zimbabwe and the Ivory Coast and the prime ministers of Spain, Sweden, Norway, Hungary, Canada and Malta.

The 24 states involved were chosen to represent a balance between developed and under-developed nations.

Addressing the conference, the King said:

"The right of human beings to live is the most sacred of human rights. And the quality of life is an integral part of that right. That quality is being threatened now by the

growing dangers to the earth's atmosphere. Our beautiful planet with which the Almighty God has blessed mankind is being subjected to brutal attacks by modern man."

"Human beings all over the world have many things in common, but the one element that they all share equally is the atmosphere. The outer space of our planet belongs to all mankind. It is not subject to the nation's territorial sovereignty or national airspace."

"As is any threat to the delicate balance of nature in our globe or around, it affects the lives of human beings and the four corners of the earth. It can only be dealt with on a global basis. No individual state or nation can handle the problem on its own; nor can any individual state or nation afford to ignore it. The problem our planet faces does indeed require vital, urgent and global attention. It is for these considerations as well as among others that I'm honoured to sign the Declaration of the Hague. This is our modest contribution to the new beginning of tackling the problem, and it is a very

Following are highlights of the text of the Hague Declaration. "Without prejudice to the international obligations of each state, the signatories acknowledge and will promote the following principles:

A. The principle of developing, within the framework of the United Nations, new institutional authority, either by strengthening existing institutions or by creating a new institution, which, in the context of the preservation of the earth's atmosphere, shall be responsible for combatting any further global warming of the atmosphere and shall involve such decision-making procedures as may be effective even if, on occasion, unanimous agreement was not been achieved.

B. The principle that this institutional authority undertake or commission the necessary studies, be granted appropriate information upon request, ensure the circulation and exchange of scientific and technological information...

C. The principle of appropriate measures to promote the effective implementation of and compliance with the decisions of the new institutional authority, decisions of which will be subject to control by the international court of justice.

D. The principle that countries to which decisions taken to protect the atmosphere shall prove to be an abnormal or special burden, in view, inter alia, of the level of their development and actual responsibility for the deterioration of the atmosphere, shall receive fair and equitable assistance to compensate them for bearing such a burden. To this end mechanisms have to be developed.

sound new approach for realising the problem exists, deciding to confront it and suggesting ways and means to muster the collective effort of all the nations in the world in this noble and glorious task is a worthy endeavour for this worthy cause.

"This joint effort is not only

our duty, but it is also the right of our future generations. The least we owe generations to come is to preserve the eco-system for them as God created it and intended it to be.

"Finally, I wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the leaders and gov-



HM King Hussein

ernments of France, the Netherlands and Norway who gave attempts to protect and preserve the planet's environment a global dimension and who initiated our movement and made the signature of this declaration possible.

"I am proud that Jordan was invited to be one of the original signatories to the Hague Declaration.

"I sincerely hope and pray that we will soon witness the endorsement of this declaration by every member state of the United Nations.

"Our meeting here today is an eloquent testimony of our full determination and total commitment to globe. I am confident we will succeed in our efforts for, will failure is not an option, success success becomes infected."

King begins private visit to Britain

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein left the Hague Saturday after attending an international conference on protection of the ozone layer and signing a declaration on the issue.

The King flew to London for a visit lasting several days. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

During his stay in the Hague, the King held separate talks with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on various world affairs, including the Middle East situation and efforts to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace conference, Petra said.

The King also discussed with Rocard and Mulroney Jordan's relations with France and Canada and issues related to the Hague conference.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem were present at the two meetings.

King Hussein later attended a lunch hosted by Queen Beatrix for the heads of state attending the conference.

King Hussein was expected to meet with a number of other leaders attending the conference.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday chairs the first meeting of the Royal Jordanian International Consultative Council. (Petra photo)

RJICC holds first meeting in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday opened the first meeting of the Royal Jordanian International Consultative Council (RJICC) at Plaza Hotel.

Royal Jordanian Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour addressed the conference. He said that "owing to His Majesty King Hussein's care, Royal Jordanian (RJ) — after 25 years of service — has become one of the first class airlines."

Crown Prince Hassan played a key role in running RJ affairs while serving in the post of chairman of the board of directors, he added. Expressing pride in achievements attained in the field of civil aviation, Ghandour said

that success can only be measured in the future achievements.

The RJICC was formed recently to give advice with regard to RJ activities on the international level. It includes Najib Halabi from the United States, former British Defence and Transport Secretary John Gilbert, Member of Stockholm Council Klaus Palme, Executive Director of the IATA Jeoffrey Lipman, head of the Arab-American Association James Abu Rezk, former Lockheed President Robert Konally, Director of the British Transport Institute Elster Pof, Deputy President of Transport Agencies agents in Japan Fumio Tamura, former Lebanese Defence Minister Elias Saba, and Ghandour.

Gulf peace talks could be delayed

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Ramadan fast that begins in April could delay a new prolonged round of Gulf peace talks that the United Nations hoped to arrange by the end of this month, according to a senior negotiator said Friday.

After consultations this past week with representatives of Iran and Iraq, Jan Eliasson, the U.N. special representative, told reporters that another preparatory session might be necessary prior to a ministerial session.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed last month at a joint meeting with foreign ministers Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Tareq Aziz of Iraq that they hold talks in New York under his auspices in the latter part of March.

"I don't want to go into the date options, but several alternatives have been discussed," Eliasson, who is Sweden's chief U.N. delegate, said Friday.

Mentioning the upcoming month-long Ramadan fast for observant Muslims, he said: "We will wait for reactions to meetings during that period."

An Iraqi source said Iraq did not object to holding talks during Ramadan, which begins April 7 or 8 — the exact date depends on the sighting of a new moon — but that the Iranians did not like the idea.

Other sources said a date in May, after the fast was over, now appeared more likely for the next ministerial round.

"I would say we are making some progress with it comes to finding the framework, the shape

of the talks and that we hope that this progress will continue and that it will then be evident on the ministerial, political level," Elias said.

He said he would report to Perez de Cuellar on the preliminary consultations when the secretary general returns here next week from an Asian tour.

"I will also discuss with him whether there is a need for further preparatory meetings with the two sides," he said.

He reaffirmed that a decision remained in principle to hold a ministerial session in New York.

The secretary general has said that this should be held away from U.N. headquarters, so that he may be freed of office distractions, and Arden House, a conference centre in Westchester County, has been suggested as a venue.

Eliasson was asked about the flooding by the Iranians of the no-man's-land in the Khush region in order to create an obstacle between forward positions occupied by the two armies, which Perez de Cuellar has caused a violation of the ceasefire accord that went into effect Aug. 20.

"The flooding issue is an important and serious one," Eliasson said, adding that the Iranians had informed the United Nations they wanted to solve it.

He said it was the sort of thing that a joint military group proposed by the United Nations but not yet established could take up.

Eliasson said the ceasefire was holding, but the situation had to be watched very carefully.

Israel juggles forces in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday that trained border police would replace Israeli reserve soldiers in parts of the occupied West Bank and Gaza in what he described as a bid to reduce violence in the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Israeli troops shot and wounded nine Palestinians in clashes in the West Bank town of Hebron and in Gaza City Saturday, according to reports.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Rabin also said he had received indications from leading Palestinians in the occupied territories that they approved of his proposal for a poll in the territories to elect delegates to peace talks with Israel.

The underground leaders of the uprising have rejected the plan.

Rabin said the border police and army conscripts able to serve in the occupied territories for at least several months at a time would take over from reservists in centres of violence.

"Part of Gaza will be the responsibility of the border police, part of the refugee camps will be under the jurisdiction of the border police," Rabin said.

Rabin said he hoped they would soon be patrolling West Bank highways where Israeli cars

are being done in (the West Bank)," he added.

The Israeli press has reported investigations against border policemen for sexual harassment of women in Gaza, beatings of Arab labourers in Tel Aviv and demanding free goods from merchants in Ramallah.

"I have received hints that the approach I proposed appeals to not just a small number of the leading figures among the residents of the (occupied) territories," Rabin said.

Rabin's remarks came after leading Palestinians rejected the plan, saying the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was their sole representative and that elections could only be held after Israeli withdrawal.

"The people here will not elect a leadership to be in competition with the PLO," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said Saturday. "It will only drive a wedge between us and our brothers on the outside."

In clashes with troops Saturday, four Palestinians, including a 12-year-old boy, were shot and wounded in the Gaza Strip, Arab hospital officials said. The army confirmed two wounded.

Police said marchers in Slough, west of London, and Leicester, central England, denounced Rushdie as the devil and waved banners declaring "Satanic Rushdie" and "Don't protect the criminal."

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said the Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, assured Jannati of his support over the Rushdie row, which the Iranian described as a "plot masterminded by global arrogance to smear Islam and God's last Prophet, Mohammad."

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The agency said in Nicos



Afghan Mujahideen waiting to ambush government troops Friday after capturing a government picket at Samarkab in eastern Afghanistan along the highway to neighbouring Pakistan

Guerrillas threaten Jalalabad

Rebel interim government meets inside Afghanistan

SHOAWI, Afghanistan (AP) — Rebels who hope to lead an interim Islamic government in Afghanistan held their first meeting in their homeland as hundreds of guerrillas toting assault rifles and heavier weapons stood guard.

Friday's session in eastern Pak- tia province, about 12 kilometres from the border with Pakistan, took place at a rebel training base the insurgents call "Sayyaf University" after Rasul Sayyaf, a fundamentalist rebel leader who is designated prime minister.

The proposed government, announced in February after a sometimes fractious meeting of the seven Pakistan-based rebel factions, hopes to take power if Afghanistan's Communist leadership falls.

But the rebels have found it difficult to resolve internal divisions between those who favour a heavily theocratic government and those of a more secular orientation.

All the Pakistan-based rebels are Sunni Muslims and the eight Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla groups based in Iran have not participated in establishing the proposed internal government. The latter say they did not have

enough representation on a consultative body formed by the powerful Sunni Muslim rebels based in Pakistan.

Gulbadin Hekmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami rebels based in Pakistan, recently went to Iran in a new attempt to persuade them to join.

"This is the first meeting in a free atmosphere inside Afghanistan," Sayyaf declared Friday at a news conference in a hillside bunker.

Outside guerrillas lined the rocky hills scanning the sky for signs of enemy airplanes or missiles.

Nabi Mohammadi, named interim president at the Pakistan meeting, Sayyaf and seven cabinet ministers attended the meeting.

Sayyaf said the cabinet will total 28 when all portfolios are filled.

Only Saudi recognise rebel government

Sayyaf declined to disclose details of Friday's meeting but said they would meet again soon "closer to Kabul." He said that once all the cabinet posts are filled his government would begin laying the groundwork for elections.

So far only Saudi Arabia has recognised the insurgents' government.

Soviet troops completed a United Nations-brokered withdrawal on Feb. 15. The Soviets left the country's key cities, including the capital, Kabul, in the hands of Afghan troops but insurgents claim control of the countryside.

Soviet forces began entering the country a decade ago to shore up the government of President Najibullah against the rebels, known as the Mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

Mujahideen leaders say Najibullah's largely conscripted army will be decimated by defects, and predict his government will fall shortly. But Najibullah who uses only one name, has claimed his forces are strong and well-provisioned by the departing Soviets.

The rebels have pledged to hold elections throughout Afghanistan within the next six months as a step toward forming a parliament and drafting the constitution of a post-war Islamic republic. However, their efforts have been marred by continual bickering.

Arafat urges Bush to help Palestinians

DHAKA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat urged President George Bush Saturday not to hesitate and to help Palestinians achieve independence.

"We are not asking for the moon. We are simply asking for international legality to be implemented," Arafat told a news conference.

"President Bush must shake off his hesitancy and formulate a policy for peace," he said at the end of a 24-hour visit in Bangladesh.

"We know that self-determination is one of the main principles of the American people. They fought for their self-determination against the British empire," he added.

Arafat earlier held talks with President Hossain Mohammad Ershad in which they discussed the Middle East and Afghanistan, a presidential aide said.

He also laid the foundation stone of a Palestinian embassy to be built in Dhaka.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773/11-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:30 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:25 Arabic series
19:15 Local programme
19:30 Arabic series
20:40 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Variety programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Show
18:30 L. Ecole des Fins
19:00 News in French
19:15 A documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 Various programmes
20:40 News in Arabic
21:15 Birds for all seasons
22:00 News in English
22:20 Murder She Wrote

17:45 Maghreb 'Isha
19:00

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
La Salle Church Tel. 667757
Terrasson Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
685336
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel.
685336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 823605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 813817, 821364

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be sunny and another rise in temperature will occur. Winds will be

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdal Rahman Al Najjar 775050
Dr. Mahmoud Jibril 896691
Dr. Wael Khartabil 665917
Dr. Anwar 'Aqabawi (—)
Fins pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmae pharmacy 637055
Nairokthi pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637665

Lebanon ports battle heats up

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's civilian government army units pledged Saturday to use force if necessary to end a port blockade by rival military government troops.

As tension rose over the six-day-old action against militia-run ports, attempts by an Arab League committee to reconcile Lebanon's civilian and military governments appeared to have hit snags.

The committee chairman, Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said more time was needed for consultations and proposed the committee's next meeting scheduled for Friday be postponed.

The civilian government section of the regular army, led by Major-General Sami Al Khatib, said in a statement the port blockade by military Commander Michel Aoun was provocative.

"The army command will take all needed measures to ensure freedom of navigation along the

coast," the statement said, adding that Aoun would be responsible for "any negative repercussions on all ports in Lebanon."

The statement did not specify what Khatib's 15,000-strong Syrian-backed troops might do. But a source told Reuters: "Either all ports will be open, or no ports at all."

Aoun, who commands some 15,000 troops, heads the military government vying for power with the pro-Syrian one led by Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

Aoun is trying to assert his authority over the seven pirate harbours run by Falangist and opposition militias.

His troops, backed by four gunboats and a few ageing Hawker Hunter jet fighters, have already intercepted two cargo ships near ports run by the opposition militias and diverted them to the port of Beirut, controlled by Aoun's army units.

Political sources in Beirut said

Lebanon's assault U.N. troops

TYRE (AP) — Israeli troops beat up four United Nations peacekeepers near their headquarters in the Lebanese border town of Naqoura, security sources in South Lebanon said Friday. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said six Israeli troops went into a restaurant on the main road to Naqoura, harassed and slapped three Swedish and one Irish soldier before confiscating their cameras and films. The Israeli troops accused the four U.N. soldiers of taking pictures of an Israeli-made Merkava tank they were aboard before entering the restaurant, the sources said. The incident Thursday was the latest in a series of attacks by Israeli troops against peacekeepers serving with the U.N. Interim Force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL). On Tuesday Israeli troops drove a tank into a group of UNIFIL vehicles after the peacekeepers detained an Israeli military convoy at a checkpoint in South Lebanon. No U.N. soldiers were injured although several vehicles were damaged, according to U.N. sources.

Israel frees Palestinian activist

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel has freed a Palestinian human rights activist who had been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. Workers at the Al-Haq (law in the service of man) human rights organisation in the occupied West Bank said that Zahi Jaradat, 24, was released Wednesday when the order for his detention expired. He had been held for a year without trial. Jaradat, who lives in Hebron in the West Bank, had worked as a field researcher for Al-Haq since 1982. Colleague Marty Rosenblatt said he had been detained twice in Israel, in 1985 and last year, and was adopted by Amnesty on both occasions. The American-based Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights has also named Jaradat as a human rights activist jailed without trial. Rosenblatt said three other Al-Haq workers were currently jailed without trial or charges in Israel.

887 candidates to run in Iraq poll

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government Saturday said 887 candidates will run in the general elections April 1 for a national assembly. A list released by the government election committee showed that only one senior Baath Party member, one minister and few senior party and government officials have registered as candidates. There are 51 women running. The election for the 255 seat assembly, the Iraqi parliament formed in 1980, were postponed twice. It was originally scheduled for Aug. 3 last year, but after Iraq accepted a United Nations-sponsored cease-fire in the Gulf war, the ruling Revolutionary Command Council postponed the vote until March 3. The election, the third ever, was postponed again to allow more independent candidates to run. In the last election, held in the middle of the eight-year war with Iran, 740 candidates ran, including 46 women. Most of the winners were party and government officials.

Vincennes-related blast tightens security

SAN DIEGO (R) — U.S. navy authorities have tightened security after a bomb attack on the wife of the captain of the USS Vincennes which shot down an Iranian airliner in the Gulf with the loss of 290 lives. The stepped-up security followed the blast Friday that ripped apart a minivan driven by Sharon Rogers, wife of Captain Will Rogers, whose warship destroyed the Iran Air jet in July. Investigators say the bombing could have been in revenge for the shooting down of the airbus. Police took Rogers and his wife, who was uninjured, to an undisclosed location, believing they might be targets of further attacks. The Vincennes fired on the airbus in what naval authorities said was a mistaken belief that it was an attacking Iranian F-14 fighter. Officials tightened security at all installations in San Diego, home to a number of naval stations, and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents began a probe into the incident.

Saudi Arabia beheads four

NICOSIA (R) — A Filipino woman and three Yemeni men were beheaded in public in Saudi Arabia after holy Muslim prayers Friday. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the woman, whose name was given in Arabic as Rima Linda Nida, was beheaded in Riyadh after being convicted of strangling a young Saudi girl. The Yemeni men were executed in a square in the southern town of Faisalia. They were found guilty of raping a seven-year-old Saudi girl who then died. SPA, received in Nicosia, named the men as Aziz Abdou, Said Ibrahim and Faisal Yehia but not say whether they were North or South Yemeni.

Bush to meet Arens Monday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will meet with President Bush Monday to discuss the Middle East peace efforts and other issues of interest in the region, according to a White House announcement. Arens will also meet with Secretary of State James A. Baker III and with members of Congress during his three-day trip to Washington, said White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater Friday. Fitzwater said Bush did not have any new Middle East peace initiatives to suggest to Arens. He declined to be specific about what Bush might bring up. Topics could include the recent State Department human rights report that criticised Israel's armed forces for excessive violence in putting down Palestinian uprisings in the occupied territories. Arens' visit comes as the Israeli army shifts some of its troops out of Gaza Strip refugee camps to reduce tension and fatal clashes in the teeming Palestinian communities.

Syria, S. Yemen cooperation talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Defence Minister Major-General Mustafa Tlas Saturday met his South Yemeni counterpart Colonel Saleh Obeid Ahmed to discuss military cooperation, diplomats said. Obeid who arrived in Damascus Friday, told reporters his visit was aimed at promoting the defences and cooperation between the armies of Syria and South Yemen. "The visit will give positive results in achieving many accomplishments in various fields especially in the military field," he said. He said visit was important due to the current political and military developments in the region and the international arena, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (06) 533-705, where it should always be verified.

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	500 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Makhammar)	300 / 250
Bread beans	180 / 140
Cabbage	130 / 100
Carrots	230 / 160
Cauliflower	150 / 100
Cucumbers	420 / 360
Eggplant	180 / 160
Garlic	200 / 200
Grapefruit	300 / 250
Lemon	150 / 150
Lettuce (per one)	250 / 200
Marrow (large)	250 / 200
Meat	420 / 360
Orange (Shambouti)	400 / 320
Orange (local)	330 / 280
Onion (dry)	250 / 200
Onion (green)	180 / 120
Pepper (hot)	740 / 680
Pepper (sweet)	320 / 280
Potato	330 / 280
Spinach	70 / 40
Mandarin	520 / 500
Tomatoes	150 / 100

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

11:20	Damascus (AZ)
12:45	Muscat, Sharjah, Deira (EM)
15:15	Dubai (EM)
16:35	Athens, Damascus (OAJ)
19:45	Beirut (ME)
19:45	Frankfurt (LH)
00:25	London, Cairo (SA)
01:45	Paris (RJ)
01:45	Vienna, New York (RJ)
02:00	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
19:	

Ramtha meeting to discuss development

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The border city of Ramtha will host a general meeting Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the development process in Ramtha District.

A set of working papers dealing with ideas and proposals for implementing industrial, agricultural, health and cultural projects will be reviewed by the participants who include the presidents of Yarmouk University, Jordan University of Science and Technology and the heads of local councils.

Heads of government departments involved in projects in Ramtha, such as the Housing Corporation, the Land and Survey Department, the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Telecommunications Corporation and



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation, will be represented at the meeting.

The main papers, according to a preparatory committee, deal with the development of agricultural sector focusing on the development of 225 dunums of land around the city.

One of the papers deals with better utilisation of the wastewater treatment plants in Ramtha and Irbid to irrigate lands for the production of animal feed.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree issued Saturday entrusted Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi to take over the duties of Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem during the latter's absence abroad. (Petra)

12 PROJECTS EXEMPTED FROM TAXES: The Cabinet Saturday approved of 12 Jordanian industrial projects as economic projects entitled to benefit from tax exemptions provided for by a law on encouraging investments. These industries have been set up to produce paper, wood, and plastic products. (Petra)

HASHISH PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Saad Abdul Majid to three years imprisonment and the payment of JD 1,500 for trafficking with hashish. The military governor Saturday endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

CHILD THEATRE FESTIVAL: The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) will organise a three-day child theatre festival in Aqaba starting March 13. The festival, which will include a puppet show, is to be held at the NHF's Aqaba centre which was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1986. The centre is an integrated unit including a nursery, a kindergarten and other facilities for the benefit of children, financed by the Jordan Ports Corporation and the Aqaba Region Authority. (Petra)

MAP EXHIBITION: A week-long exhibition of the Tschellingen Atlas of the Middle East was opened at Yarmouk University Saturday following a similar display at the University of Jordan last month. The exhibition displays a collection of Atlases on the region's history and geography, outlining habitations and the activities of inhabitants over the ages. (Petra)

SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS: Mu'ta University President Dr. Ali Mahafta Saturday opened the fourth scientific experiments exhibition at the university. The ten-day exhibition is designed to conduct scientific experiments and applications related to scientific subjects taught at the secondary stage. (Petra)

250 FIRMS BOYCOTTED: The Ministry of Finance and Customs has issued a decision imposing an embargo on 250 foreign companies in accordance with the provisions of the unified Arab law which deals with boycotting Israel. The law also includes lifting the embargo imposed on 120 foreign companies after they amended their policies in accordance with the provisions of this law. (Petra)

ANANI MEETS IRAQI MINISTER: Iraqi Military Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan Saturday received Royal Scientific Society President Dr. Jawad Anani. They discussed matters related to industrial and scientific cooperation within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council. (Petra)

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL LABOUR: Labour Ministry Secretary General Dr. Saleh Khasawneh Saturday visited Amman Labour Ministry's Employment Office and expressed satisfaction with the campaign the ministry is launching to identify foreign labourers who work in Jordan illegally. The director of the office explained the policy adopted in this regard and the successes attained so far. (Petra)

2 SHOT IN RAMTHA: Two people, one 15-year-old and the other 23 years of age have been admitted to Ramtha Government Hospital Friday after being shot in the shoulder. According to Sawi Al Shaah they were attending a wedding ceremony at Al Shajarah village when the incident occurred. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed date and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Tunisiya at Al Qadisiya College.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Jordan National Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adil Rizqullah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Haamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Rihab Ghassis entitled "Jordan in Spring" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Tschellingen Atlas of the Middle East" (and a seminar with Dr. Kamal Abdul Fattah) at the Yarmouk University — 3:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Palestine Question in the Future" by Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman at the Orthodox Club — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Jordanian Dinar" by Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Dr. Maher Shukri at the Ferabi Building, the Yarmouk University — 3:30 p.m.
- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Haarmann entitled "Nation and Fatherland in Medieval Christianity and Islam" at the Yarmouk University — 12:00 noon.
- ★ A lecture organised by Amideast to be delivered by Jordanian graduates from U.S. on fields of study — engineering, applied health, business, computer science in the U.S. — at the American Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture on the history of earthquakes east of the Mediterranean Sea by Dr. Zuhair Al 'Issa at the Biology Auditorium, the University of Jordan — 12 noon.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "Annie Hall" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "The Draughtsman's Contract" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Documentary films on Deutschlandspiegel at the Yarmouk University — 5:00 p.m.

Conference to create Federation of Arab Anti-Cancer Societies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Different forms of Cancer will be scrutinised at a conference due to open at the University of Jordan on March 21 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The three-day meeting has been organised by the Jordan Anti-Cancer Society in cooperation with the National Medical Institution (NMI), the Health Ministry and the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), according to Dr. Walid Turk, the society president.

He said that the conference, the first of its kind in the Arab World, will be attended by both Arab and foreign specialists, who will review papers, deliver lectures and hold extensive discussions dealing with the disease.

According to society sources

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Some explanation needed

THE ARAB World would welcome any meeting between U.S. President George Bush and American Jewish leaders if the purpose is to win their support for a durable and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Arab comfort and satisfaction with any such dialogue between the U.S. government and the American Jewish community would also be more complete if the U.S. president invites representatives of the other side to hear them out. Singling out the Jewish community in America as partners in the American articulation of Washington's policy towards the Middle East strikes the Arab side, whether in America or in the Middle East, as overtly unfair and unbalanced.

But be that as it may, the words and policy statements that were attributed to President George Bush during his meetings with two Jewish American delegations — one from the Republican Party's National Jewish Coalition and the other from the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish Organisations — give the Arab World considerable concern. The American president has been quoted by the attending Jewish leaders as ruling out any possibility of applying pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir when he visits Washington and the White House next month. One would pause here to inquire whether Washington has subscribed to the philosophy of "friendly persuasion" in dealing with the tough and intransigent Israeli prime minister. But that is not all. What worries the Arabs everywhere is the assurance given to the Jewish leaders that Washington will not acquiesce to an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders or the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. And for dessert, the U.S. president has been quoted as assuring Tel Aviv that Washington is totally committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge over any combination of Arab military forces. As if all this is not enough, American Jewish leaders emerged from the meeting with the distinct message that Washington hopes to even strengthen its strategic cooperation with Israel.

To be fair, one must wait for the official American version on the meeting before making final judgements. On the face of it, the picture emerging from the meetings in question is alarming. Washington would be well advised to offer its own version of what exactly has transpired between President George Bush and the American Jewish leaders. There is plenty of room to suspect a deliberate attempt to disseminate disinformation by the Israeli and Jewish side in order to broaden the cleavage between the U.S. and the Arab World. The answer to all such queries must await the full elucidation of the American position on the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Hopefully this could be done soon.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Saturday tackled King Hussein's visit to Holland where he will take part in an international conference on the protection of the environment. The paper said that the King's participation reflects his interest in contributing towards protecting the world from the danger of pollution, a policy adopted in the Kingdom and pursued with all possible means. But the King is also scheduled to hold meetings with world leaders taking part in that conference to discuss the Middle East peace and the region's issues, the paper said. It noted that the King's visit will be part of his on-going endeavours world-wide to find a solution to the Palestine problem, and proves that he is not losing any moment or sparing any effort in this regard. The King is careful to benefit from the current East-West detente and the relaxed world political atmosphere to bring direct attention towards the Middle East issue, the paper added. It said that there is need not only to protect the world's environment from pollution but also real need for peace to protect the peoples of the world from further conflict and bloodshed.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily newspaper comments on Israel's continued drive to abort the on-going U.S.-PLO dialogue over the Middle East issue. Ibrahim Sakkijha says that the United States had taken a bold step by opening the dialogue with the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but Israel is now intensifying its efforts to foil all meaningful talks leading to a settlement. The writer says that the Bush administration which is still reassessing the situation in the Middle East is failing under continued Zionist pressure in Washington and from Tel Aviv to halt the talks with the PLO. The writer notes that Washington is holding out in the face of Israel's pressure; and the Arabs indeed hope that the United States will finally free itself from the Zionist influence once and for all, and embark on even-handed policies in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem. One example of Washington's positive stand in this regard, the writer says, is the latest statements by U.S. officials that resistance activities conducted against Israel from Lebanon do not create any obstacle in the path of the PLO-U.S. dialogue which is meant to end the whole conflict in the area.

Al Dostour daily newspaper tackled the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territories which, it said, has now entered its 16th month. The paper said that the past 15 months proved the futility of Israel's iron-fist policy, and the failure on the part of its military machine to quell the Arab spirit of resistance. The paper said indeed the sacrifices offered by the Palestinians and the continued and determined struggle have won the Palestinian people worldwide support and brought about splits within the Israeli society and between political leaders. Above all, the paper said pressure from various nations on Tel Aviv and the numerous difficulties confronting the Israeli government have also contributed to the present unstable policies conducted by the Israeli leaders and their unstable behaviour as to the right course of action to deal with the situation. The more brutal the Israeli soldiers are and the more intransigent the Israeli government is, the more determined the Palestinian people will become to liberate themselves and their lands from occupation, the paper concluded.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Financial adjustment for public corporations

THE government finally adopted a policy of relative austerity and financial prudence. Perhaps the measures taken were not as tough and radical as the difficult circumstances require, but they were fairly strong and substantial, as indicated by 1989 budget, which has the same size of the previous year's budget in absolute numbers, despite the substantial decline in the domestic purchasing power of the dinar of around 20 per cent, resulting from the dinar's depreciation of 31 per cent during 1988.

The government also took a sweeping decision to suspend all capital expenditure on infrastructure projects unless such projects

were already in process. This was based on the fact that the infrastructure, already in place, was sufficient to fully satisfy our needs for basic services now and for many years to come, without further additions. In fact, blocking new purchases of equipment and facilities may urge the government to improve the human element and enhance the efficient running of the public utilities.

Financial adjustment and rational policies should not be confined to the central government and its subdivisions and departments. It should go further down the road to reach the whole public sector, which is far larger than the central government. Suffi-

cient it to say that the collective budget of the Jordanian public sector's autonomous institutions and corporations make no less than 50 per cent of the budget of the government proper.

Unfortunately, very little progress, if any, has been made on this front. Public corporations did not yet embark on a self-sufficiency programme or endeavour to achieve financial surpluses. They still depend heavily on financial subsidy from the government, either directly or indirectly, and thus they continue to be a drain on foreign currencies and public funds which the economy cannot afford any more.

Certain public corporations has failed to perform the very duties they were created to perform, and accordingly must be written off without delay. The Housing Corporation, for example, could not sell its products in the market and beat the private sector except after giving a big discount of around 40 per cent of its direct cost. This is approximately the rate of waste and inefficiency in its performance.

A thorough examination of the public sector corporations will reveal that the Housing Corporation is not the exception. Other corporations should be either altered or written off altogether due to their failure to function

less they are run properly just like any private shareholding company.

Furthermore, public sector corporations will not adjust voluntarily. Austerity, prudence and rationality should be imposed on them. In fact this job is more urgent than the austerity of the central government itself, if we were serious about such policies, in order to adjust our position, overcome our difficulties and use the crisis as an opportunity to correct the drifting trends.

Of course it takes guts to face the challenge and control those who think they are beyond control, but the government demonstrated so far that the will is there.

'Ye shall blot them out to the last man'

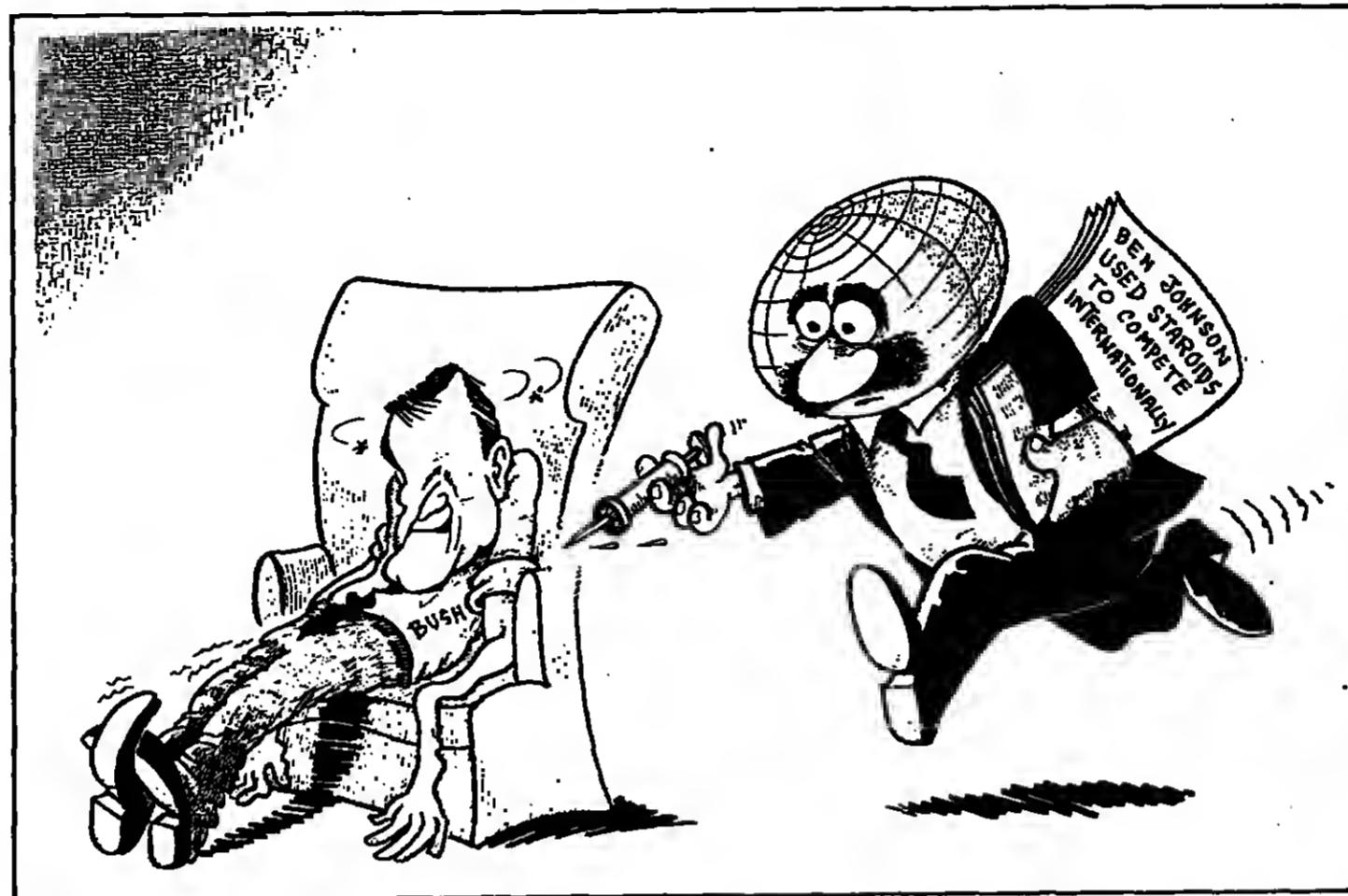
The following article, written by Yitzhak Shamir, was published in 1943:

ALL the chatter, indeed the entire complex people have against the resort terror, may be rebutted via easily understood arguments — exposing the true face of those who advocate the "legal," the "democratic" way, showing how much terrorism is in fact concealed under these guises. But we do not wish to take this easy road, and we will therefore here disregard that option and allow citizens on both left and right to keep their illusion that there own methods, and those of the government, do not constitute terrorism. We instead take it upon ourselves to defend the hardest position, i.e. to reduce the concept of "terrorism" to its narrow form of menace and assassination of one's enemy using mines, bombs and so forth. All of proper society, both left and right, as is known, is always "shocked" to the depths of its corrupt soul by such deeds, and stands ready to aid the ruling regime in bringing these anarchist terrorists to the scaffold and eliminating them. But this same society is not willing to do so if, for example, 769 passengers from the *Struma* are legally murdered, along with tens of thousands of others who might have been saved but were not. That is not terrorism — that's at worst, a "bad law" or "brutality."

Neither Jewish ethics nor Jewish tradition can disqualify terrorism as a means of combat.

We are far from having any moral qualms as far as our national war goes. We have before us the command of the Torah, whose morality surpasses that of any other body of laws in the world: "Ye shall blot them out to the last man." We are particularly far from having any qualms with regard to the enemy, whose moral degradation is universally admitted here.

But first and foremost, terrorism is for us a part of the political battle being conducted under the present circumstances, and it has a great part to play: speaking in a clear voice in the whole world, as well as our wretched brethren outside this land, it proclaims our war against the occupier. The real terrorist hides behind his stacks of paper and of laws he himself legislated. (Our terrorism) is not aimed at persons, but rather at representatives, and therefore it is effective. If, in addition, it shakes the Jewish population out of its complacency — so much better. Thus, and only thus, will the battle for liberation commence.



Pressure grows on Bush to formulate Middle East policy

By Maher Mouasher
Special to the Jordan Times

RECENT Soviet diplomatic moves in the Middle East, coupled with intensified efforts by the PLO and other Palestinians and Arabs to bring Israel to the negotiating table, are bound to increasingly push Bush to action. Arafat's recent meeting with Israeli media, and the video tape, with Arafat that was shown in Israel addressed to Israeli audiences have presented the Israeli government with a strong appeal to negotiate. The refusal by Shamir to even consider these negotiations has put Bush, as Israel's strongest ally in a very difficult position, and the pressure increases on him daily to act on the situation.

Along with the articles that regularly appear by U.S. Jews in the American press urging support for Israel are an ever increasing number of articles critical of Shamir and in favour of talks with the PLO as the only way to achieve peace. These articles increasingly call on Bush to press-

ure Israel towards the negotiating table. A recent article in the New York Times by Menachem Rosensaft, a member of the Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, called on Bush to pressure Shamir to actioo. He was deeply critical of Shamir, saying that "Mr. Shamir and other Israeli hardliners reject any plausible peace overtures" and asked the Bush administration "not to be misled into believing that Mr. Shamir's views accurately reflect Israeli public opinion."

He went on to say that "it is...naive to think that Mr. Shamir will present a credible peace proposal when he visits Washington this spring. More likely, he will put forward yet another public relations scheme designed to deflect attention from his intransigence." Rosensaft's views reflect those of a growing number of American Jews. He was one of the first prominent American Jews to meet with Arafat last fall in Geneva, and his position is increasingly finding greater acceptance in the U.S.

Together with these factors

there is, of course, the continuing stream of headlines from the intifada as a constant prod to action. Every day, headlines like "Israel's handling of uprising on trial," "The Palestinian Cost: to Be Young and Maimed," and "2 more Palestinians killed" greet Americans in the morning, and reflect the urgency that must be accorded towards achieving dialogue for peace.

George Bush is not likely to immediately make the Middle East his number one priority. He has things like the John Tower nomination and the new U.S. budget to take care of in Congress first. But with the Soviets moving forcefully, with American Jews making noise, and with the PLO pushing for peace, the Middle East will be a high priority in the Bush administration's agenda and the Americans will become more active in the region soon. You can at least count on that happening. The Bush administration has to great a stake in the Middle East for that not to happen.



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Palestinian women evolve as their world changes

By Gail Fitter
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinian women are winning higher social status because of their vital, front-line role in a 15-month revolt in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Emerging from the shadows of conservative Arab society, they have become demonstrators and community organisers, though Palestinian feminists say there is a long way to go.

Israeli troops clashed last Tuesday with Palestinian women marking International Women's Day a day early with marches in the West Bank towns of Ramallah, Hebron and Kalkila.

In Ramallah soldiers arrested 17 women, forcing them into army jeeps, and hit and kicked others who tried to stop them from making the arrests.

Troops fired rubber bullets to

disperse the women and witnesses said at least three women were wounded.

Slogans on walls read: "Men and women, hand in hand, will escalate the uprising" and "equal pay for equal work."

The role of women in the intifada is as important as the role of men and because of that women are more confident about themselves and are respected by society," Zahira Kamal, Director of the Jerusalem-based Women's Work Committee, told reporters.

"At the same time the women's movement is united now and that will help them to achieve their social rights."

Women participate in demonstrations as much as the men. Some demonstrations are only women... hundreds of women have been imprisoned even though many of them have children," Kamal said.

Al-Haq, a Palestinian Human Rights Organisation, said in a

statement issued for International Women's Day that 28 women and girls have been killed by Israeli troops firing live, rubber or plastic bullets during demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza.

More than 500 Palestinian women have been arrested during the revolt and 18 have been jailed without trial, Al Haq said.

The Israeli army does not keep separate casualty figures for women, a spokeswoman said. Troops had standing orders to avoid confrontations with women and children where possible, she added.

The total death toll in the uprising is 398 Palestinians and 16 Israelis.

Sexual harassment

Al Haq said: "arrests are often followed by periods of interrogation marked by physical and psychological torture as well as sexual harassment..."

"Administrative detentions have targeted activists in the Palestinian women's movement," it added.

It said many women had suf-

fered fractured limbs and broken ribs from Israeli beatings.

Kamal said women played a significant role in visiting the wounded and distributing food in towns and villages under curfew.

Women are also active in first aid, food, agriculture and teaching committees run by the underground leaders of the uprising, she said.

Hanan Mikhail Ashrawi, dean of the arts faculty at Bir Zeit University, said Palestinian women had become a more significant political force during the uprising, taking part in decision-making.

"The status of women has improved because they are visibly seen not only as participants but as being effective participants by taking initiatives and sustaining programmes."

Despite their new social importance, Palestinian women are still far from achieving equality in their traditional society.

"Equality needs a social change, political rules and civil rules and under occupation you couldn't get that," Kamal said.



'Illegal logging' caused the killer floods in Thailand

By Charunee Normita Thongtham

The scale of the recent floods in Southern Thailand is being blamed on illegal logging and mining — a lucrative trade backed by gun-toting thugs who had suppressed villagers' protests.

BANGKOK — Thailand's prime minister, Chatichai Choonbavan, has banned all logging activities in southern Thailand after the devastating November flash floods.

The floods triggered an avalanche of felled logs — which buried the villages of Khiriwong in Lao Saka district and Tambon Nua Klong Ramachai Phipun district, Nakhon Si Thammarat province, some 800 kilometres south of Bangkok. The floods killed 355 villagers and destroyed 56,000 houses, 883 bridges, 618 schools and 163 temples in 14 southern provinces.

Some of the killer logs belonged to a timber company which was granted a concession in 1974 over 30 plots of forest in Phipun district. Legal logging was suspended in 1984, and reopened in 1988. But "even when the forest was closed, illegal logging went on," a local member of parliament has alleged.

Phra Siew Bunyachato, the abbot of Huay Ko Temple in Phipun district, in hospital with severe back injuries sustained in the flood, said villagers protested against the illegal logging but were told to shut up or be killed.

He described how two years ago he led a group of 200 villagers to the district office to complain — but they were told officials were powerless to help.

Villagers recall that, shortly afterwards, a group of gunmen appeared and threatened to kill anyone who continued to protest. Four villagers and a district officer have since been murdered, and the killers have not been apprehended.

"A temporary ban on logging in the south not solve the forestry crisis because it does not guarantee that logging would not be allowed to resume," said Renoo Phaisalpanichakul of the Committee for the Conservation of Natural Resources and Environment, which groups students from 16 universities and institutes.

The government has said that, before ending concession rights, it must first make sure that the move is within the law to keep loggers from suing the government. But there are those who say that the real reason why the government cannot revoke concession rights is that some powerful politicians are themselves involved in the logging business — Panos.



Deforestation was behind last year's floods in Thailand. Here villagers clear a steep slope, threatening later soil erosion and flooding.

(Photo credit: Mark Edwards/Panos Pictures)

Exposure, exposure, exposure

This is the second of a two part report on how television influences contemporary society By Joshua Meyrowitz.

Word communications and expressions have completely different strengths and weaknesses, and until recently, they each reigned supreme in different realms of society. While expressions have an important role to play in personal, private relationships, they are severely limited as a form of public argument and discussion.

Television has brought about a blurring of these two forms of interaction. We now respond to public events and people in terms of their personal appearance, gesture and emotion.

Recent polls show that many people will vote for a candidate they disagree with on the issues because they say they like the candidate personally. This dichotomy of response to personality and stands on the issues make sense only in television culture. If we read a candidate's speeches in a newspaper, it would be insane for us to say, "This is all nonsense, but you know something, I like the guy." Such a reaction only makes sense when we feel we have met and "known" our leaders personally. And television gives us that feeling.

Few people can be masters of both expression and communication. Thomas Jefferson was a beautiful and clear writer, and he has been considered by many to be the most intelligent U.S. president. But he would not make a very good TV president. He had a slight speech impediment, and he was voted the homiest student at William and Mary College. Worst of all, he disliked speaking in public so much that he never addressed congress in person; instead he sent his State of the Union speeches to Congress to be read by a clerk.

The emotional, charismatic reaction to TV hurts theatre in two ways. Not only does the loss of interest in language hurt drama, but it was once the case that theatre held an edge over real life, and over poetry and literature, in terms of fleshing out public characters. An actor would literally "give a body" to types of people we could not watch so closely in real life. People from different walks of life — kings and paupers, famous people, living and dead — would be brought to life for us by the theatre.

Reality

But now the standard by which we measure theatre's distance or closeness, its verisimilitude or distortion, is not real life, but television and other electronic media. And on TV, we experience people at a simulated intimate distance. Theatre suddenly seems more distant than reality — a reality that is composed of vicarious interactions with our many media friends.

The more we see and hear them, the more performers, newscasters, politicians, talk-show hosts and subjects of news become part of our extended network of friends. Some of them are there to say "good morning" to us; others come to say "good night." They speak to us as we eat dinner and sing in our ears as we jog. We see their nervous twitches and the twinkle in their eyes. We are aware of their colds and haircuts, their good days and their bad days.

Through television, we develop a sense of intimacy with those who were once distant. We come to feel that we really know a John Lennon or a Christa McAuliffe, the teacher-astronaut who died when the space shuttle "Challenger" exploded. We feel we've met their family members and understand who they are as people.

Hence the difficulty today of writing a play about someone like Christa McAuliffe. On the day of the accident, millions of people felt they knew Christa, that she was their friend, their neighbour, their teacher. Many people would rather see a documentary drawing on actual news footage than see an actress portraying Christa. And when such media friends are in a newspaper, it would be insane for us to say, "This is all nonsense, but you know something, I like the guy." Such a reaction only makes sense when we feel we have met and "known" our leaders personally. And television gives us that feeling.

Few people can be masters of both expression and communication. Thomas Jefferson was a beautiful and clear writer, and he has been considered by many to be the most intelligent U.S. president. But he would not make a very good TV president. He had a slight speech impediment, and he was voted the homiest student at William and Mary College. Worst of all, he disliked speaking in public so much that he never addressed congress in person; instead he sent his State of the Union speeches to Congress to be read by a clerk.

The emotional, charismatic reaction to TV hurts theatre in two ways. Not only does the loss of interest in language hurt drama, but it was once the case that theatre held an edge over real life, and over poetry and literature, in terms of fleshing out public characters. An actor would literally "give a body" to types of people we could not watch so closely in real life. People from different walks of life — kings and paupers, famous people, living and dead — would be brought to life for us by the theatre.

Reality

But now the standard by which we measure theatre's distance or closeness, its verisimilitude or distortion, is not real life, but television and other electronic media. And on TV, we experience people at a simulated intimate distance. Theatre suddenly seems more distant than reality — a reality that is composed of vicarious interactions with our many media friends.

Even news shows on television are constructed fictions, with electronically meshed images that take place not in the real world, but only on television. Often when TV interviewer Ted Koppel speaks with three guests on a live programme such as "Nightline" — a seemingly real event — the event exists only on television. Koppel and the three guests are not in the same place; their conversation is a dramatic construction played on the stage of television. Or to push this further, what is the nature of the reality of hostage-taking when the event is designed by both hostage-takers and journalists to make good TV drama?

Drama

Perhaps it is because of our subconscious awareness of the construction of reality on TV that we use the word drama so loosely to refer to almost everything on

The more we are aware of the backstage machinations of everyone from presidential candidates to television evangelists, the less willing we are to grant the theatre its lifeblood: suspension of disbelief.

Television doesn't simply expose some of the former backstage of life and then leave the culture; it stays around to absorb and transmit the result. TV is an ever-present dynamo that reprocesses our culture. It brings about structural changes, then the changes are reported on TV as news, then the changes move into soap operas and TV dramas and situation comedies, which leads to further backstage exposures, which bring about further changes, which are reported on the news, and so on. So TV is a tightly wound spiral of change that winds backward on itself as it thrusts us forward into an unknown and bewildering future.

Changing

Meyrowitz's insights into the role of television in the United States are increasingly relevant to other cultures. In 1986, there were over 625 million television sets in the world, one for every eight men, women and children.

Although the author's point of departure here is the explicit challenge the small screen presents to a competing medium — the theatre — he addresses the covert challenge TV makes to us all: to use language and reason to connect the dots behind the shimmering images.

Changing

Television's rapid and continuous reworking of our culture presents another challenge to theatre by changing the social backdrop to drama. Theatre depends on fiction being separate from reality not only to encourage audiences to enter a theatre but also for the construction of a meaningful drama in the first place. It is much easier to comment on a relatively stable outside world, where everything and everybody has its place. Writers and directors need things to stand somewhat still for a generation, at least a decade — at the harshest minimum, a few years. Otherwise, by the time a book or play about the culture appears, the culture may have changed. But TV forces a continuously changing present.

Another way that television blurs the difference between theatre and reality is that it has made us all more aware of the dramatic structure of everyday life, making the theatre seem less special. Americans were once relatively unaware of the staging of the programme and of all the discussions of it on news and talk shows, in schools and at work — transforms it into a real social "event."

Another way that television blurs the difference between theatre and reality is that it has made us all more aware of the dramatic structure of everyday life, making the theatre seem less special.

One of the things that makes television so compelling is that it seems to be an all-purpose medium of entertainment, commentary and news, with events that unfold before our very eyes. It has its own internal system of control and advice more visible.

The new hyper-awareness of "life-as-drama" has made us all more suspicious of theatrical "role-players" and less comfortable with boldly drawn characters both in real life and on the stage.

Even news shows on television

cross-reference, where the news refers to new fictional programmes and fictional programmes reflect recently reported news events. This unfolding and cross-referencing gives us the sense of television being in the "present moment" — anything can happen at any moment. In contrast, a movie or a book — and, ironically, even a live dramatic performance — seems canned by comparison, in the "past tense."

Theatre was once an obviously richer, denser form of experience than ordinary moments of living; now the differences are more subtle. The impact of dramatic filming is diluted as the rush of outside media events beckons.

The impact of drama is dependent on the isolation of the audience from other settings, from other actions, from other words. Every phrase, movement, prop and lighting effect is designed to contribute to a cohesive definition of the situation, of a tragedy or comedy, of a time past or present, of a certain set of characters, in a specific matrix of time and space coordinates.

What can the theatre do to respond to the invasion of television? I'm afraid it is easier to describe some of the difficulties than to offer simple solutions. Certainly, it seems unlikely that people will stop watching television or stop using all the other electronic media, new and old, that give us a sense of placelessness and multiple-layered stimuli.

At the same time, it would be a mistake to try to ignore television and its effects. It would also be a mistake to abdicate to television's multimedia shows or visual/aural extravaganzas.

Rather than ignoring or giving in to TV, perhaps artists need to confront television more directly by helping us gain insight into the television experience. Their most powerful tool in this regard is the word. Language can dissect our experience with television.

Television images are produced by thousands of flashing dots that we perceive in a sensual gestalt. Drama and poetry — because of their reliance on language — are capable of connecting the dots.

We do not usually see links between the elements on television. We tend not to notice the connection between the programmes and the commercials. We don't see contradictions: how the news report on pollution of underground water may be related to the manufacture of the products of the news show's sponsors.

Theatre can help us to think about such things. The TV-dominated electronic landscape is one that affects almost everyone in society, yet TV isn't very good at commenting on itself. Theatre can fill the void. It can challenge us to think about TV by making the television environment a "character" in drama and by making the shared experiences of television part of what theatre analyses and dissects.

Stimuli

We often talk about this influence of the television in terms of the simplistic complaint that people, especially children, have

<p>CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>Michael Jackson in MOON WALKER</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00</p>	<p>NIJOUN Tel: 675571</p> <p>HOLLYWOOD AIR FORCE</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>PLAZA Tel: 67420</p> <p>NO WAY OUT</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>
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U.S. revitalises Third World debt initiative

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — In a significant shift of U.S. policy, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady Friday proposed a plan to significantly reduce the core debt burden of hard-pressed Latin American nations.

The plan, the first by an U.S. administration targeted at debt reduction itself, envisages creating pools of money from existing World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) resources and to reduce debt and guarantee interest payments of debtors.

Brady, in a speech to a conference on debt sponsored by the Bretton Woods Committee and the Brookings Institution, said:

"To support and encourage debt and commercial bank efforts to reduce debt and debt-service burdens, the IMF and World Bank could provide funding, as part of their policy-based lending programmes, for debt or debt-service reduction purposes."

Although the IMF and World Bank would set guidelines on how their money is used, negotiations and transactions will remain in the market place, "encouraged and supported but not managed by the international institutions," Brady said.

Treasury Department officials said Brady's plan was still in the proposal stage and that the details have to be negotiated with U.S. allies and the institutions involved.

The previous strategy, crafted in 1985 by former secretary of treasury James Baker, now secretary of state, relied on economic growth and new commercial bank lending. But the new lending never materialised.

Brady's proposal retains basic elements of the Baker plan that economic growth, reforms and new lending are important and that debt relief be undertaken on a case-by-case basis.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said President Bush had not been briefed on the details of the plan and had not made his final decision.

Treasury officials declined to discuss how much of the \$1.3 trillion debt burden carried by developing nations would be reduced under the plan, but said it would be significant.

"The magnitudes that would be involved would be quite substantial," said an official.

The proposal stresses voluntary negotiations between the debtor nations and commercial banks, which Brady said he hoped would grant waivers to existing loan agreements to allow current debtors to participate.

"We expect these waivers to

accelerate sharply the pace of debt reduction and pass the benefits directly to the debtor nations," he said, suggesting a three-year waiver period.

"Our objective is to rekindle the hope of the people and leaders of debtor nations that their sacrifices will lead to greater prosperity in the present and the prospect of a future unclouded by the burden of debt," Brady said.

Volcker cautions against looking for 'magic elixir'

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who also spoke at the debt conference, cautioned against looking for a single "magic elixir" to solve the crisis.

"If not well-managed, a process of debt reduction clearly could be hazardous to the health of debtors and creditors alike," Volcker said in a speech before Brady's appearance.

Volcker said that the question which needed to be answered is whether the value of Third World debt can be reduced in an orderly manner that does not jeopardise the likelihood of repayment of whatever debt is left after the reductions occur.

Conable, Camdessus see need for more flexible approach

Both World Bank President Barber Conable and Michel Camdessus, head of the IMF, said a more flexible approach to the debt problem is needed, coexisting that debtor countries face economic and political crises without debt relief.

Camdessus said that the riots in Venezuela last week represented just one of several "time bombs" involving the debt issue which could explode unless solutions are found quickly. Those riots erupted after the government imposed tough austerity measures to please creditors.

"More has to be done urgently by all," he said. "The debt strategy has to be given a second wind and broader scope."

Conable suggested that Mexico would be an excellent candidate to try the new approaches first because of the good-faith efforts it has made in the past to meet its financial obligations.

"Mexico has indicated a will-

ingness to engage in major reforms," said Barber Conable. "It has substantial prospects. It also has substantial debt, and it has lived up to its obligations."

The international financial community should offer Mexico a wider than traditional range of options to finance its requirements over the next few years," Conable said.

His first suggestion was that there should be a significant reduction in Mexico's debt, the largest in the Third World after Brazil's. Current loans to Mexico should be exchanged at a discount for long-term bonds, he said. This would be a form of debt forgiveness by the commercial banks to which the bulk of Mexico's debt is owed.

Mexico would have less to repay when the bonds came due, and interest paid in the interval would also be reduced.

Conable also suggested:

"Exit bonds," to be taken by creditor banks at a discount from the sums now owed them, enabling some banks to get out of lending to Mexico. This would also reduce the principal and interest Mexico has to pay;

A "debt-equity swap programme" which would allow banks to use the dollars they have lent to Mexico to buy shares in Mexican businesses;

Strong support from international bodies like his own bank and the IMF to support Mexico's austerity policies. Although Conable did not specify, this support would presumably include additional loans on more favourable terms than those offered by commercial banks;

New tax, trade and banking regulations by creditor countries to encourage private investment from abroad that will help Mexico's income to grow.

New money will be needed in Mexico's case even after significant debt reduction," Conable added.

He said that his bank and other international bodies cannot furnish the needed money alone, implying that new loans from commercial banks will also be needed.

Bradley voices support

Senator Bill Bradley, a Democrat who is a frequent critic of the 1985 Baker plan, called the new proposal "a significant change of direction." But be warned that the policy would have no chance of success unless the administration of President Bush created a special post of "debt ambassador."

"Mexico has indicated a will-

Bradley said this official would have to ensure that the debt reduction effort got off the ground quickly.

Bankers await details

Bankers say that the U.S. treasury's plan to spur Third World debt reduction is a welcome initiative but its success will depend on details not yet apparent.

"There is a danger that people will look at this and assume the debt crisis is solved. The success or failure will depend on the details," said one U.S. banker.

"It's a major change because it focuses on debt relief and debt reduction which previously were a no-no," said another.

But others said the proposals raised many questions.

While welcoming the acknowledgement that both major industrial nations and multilateral agencies need to be involved to tackle the debt crisis, they said this may raise thorny issues.

In particular, they expect Japan — in return for providing increased financing — will demand a bigger say in the operations of the IMF and World Bank at the expense of the United States.

The Japanese monies could be conditional on the United States relinquishing some of its authority at the IMF and World Bank," said one banker.

Japanese officials said Japan's Export-Import Bank will increase loans made in parallel with the IMF to debtor countries which take advantage of the new strategy.

"Whatever amount of funds comes from Japan, the United States will have to put in more also. With the U.S. budget deficit, that amount will not be substantial," said a European banker.

Bankers said key elements of the proposal, with its focus on debt reduction through such mechanisms as loan swaps or

interest-rate relief — as demanded by debtor countries for some time — were much as anticipated.

As for the financial repercussions, some U.S. bankers said that while the plan implies more lenient accounting practices, investors will still be facing lower returns.

"One way or another, banks will not make as much or will suffer write-offs," said one U.S. banker.

France lauds backing, Britain shows caution

In Paris, France welcomed the new U.S. plan to help ease the Third World debt burden but a cautious Britain said the new proposals would need very careful study.

French Finance Minister Pierre Berezovoy welcomed the move, which was a step in the right direction.

"The United States accepts from now on that the debt reduction options play a major role in the treatment of middle-income countries' debt," Berezovoy said in a statement.

"It is a step in the right direction, which meets the idea suggested by France for a multilateral guarantee fund aimed at helping operators to reduce bank debt," he said.

In London, a British treasury spokesman said the plan was interesting but would need very careful study.

He said the world's main industrialised nations had already developed a strategy that had made a valuable contribution to the Third World's debt problems and would continue to do so.

"The Brady proposals are an interesting extension of the existing strategy, which already includes the explicit option of voluntary debt reduction," the British spokesman said.

Berezovoy said France would help find ways to make fast progress with the programme.

"We are ready for our part to examine with our partners the methods and conditions allowing rapid progress..." he said.

He said some of the ideas behind Brady's plan were close to those presented by French President François Mitterrand and the United Nations in September last year.

Mitterrand then proposed the creation of a fund within the IMF to guarantee payment of interest charged on some commercial loans converted into bonds.

Japanese Finance Minister Tatsuji Maruyama has already said he will support financially the U.S. debt plan.

Very timid step

Major Latin American nations Friday welcomed Brady's debt-reduction initiative, but some questioned whether it went far enough to ease their debt burdens.

Venezuela's President Carlos Andrés Pérez, whose nation was gripped by riots last week following price hikes aimed to satisfy its creditors, called Brady's initiative a "very timid step" toward meeting needs of Latin American debtors.

But Pérez told reporters after arriving here to meet Latin American foreign ministers hold-

ing a two-day conference that the plan was a move in the right direction.

But Nobrega said a final evaluation depended on the formulation of the details of the plan and on the conditions of its implementation which, he believes, should be the subject of discussion as soon as possible.

The Mexican finance ministry also welcomed the initiative.

"The change of emphasis placing priority on the reduction of debt and its servicing and not on additional indebtedness is particularly positive," the ministry said in a statement.

Latin American countries want debt service — last year amounting to \$33 billion — reduced to reflect the discounted values of their debt in secondary markets.

Apart from Chile, most countries' debt is selling considerably below 50 cents on the dollar.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 11, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)
Pound Sterling	923.2	930.6	256.0
Deutschmark	288.5	291.1	84.5
Swiss franc	337.7	340.5	85.1
French franc	85.2	85.8	39.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)
			136.0
			139.1

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (I.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 4, '89 and ending Wednesday March 8, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Per value

Banking and financial institutions

Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—
Jordan Islamic Bank	50	103	2,040	2,060
Jordan Kuwait Bank	1865	2579	1,460	1,360
Jordan Gulf Bank	3082	3942	1,220	1,000
Housing Bank	1150	2086	1,850	1,810
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—
Cain Amman Bank	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	1754	27006	15,350	15,250
Arab Bank	4387	657986	153,500	147,500
Jordan National Bank	20990	54309	2,600	2,560
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	1350	3005	2,570	2,470
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	1,000
National Financial Investments	1520	3027	2,000	1,970
National Portfolio Securities	2724	2596	0,960	0,950
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	140	2415	17,500	17,250
Al Mawruk Exchange	—	—	—	10,000
Middle East Exchange	—	—	—	1,000
Belt Al Mat Saving & Investment for Housing	7260	7386	1,100	0,950

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	10932	40686	3,750	3,640	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	4000	4240	1,110	1,060	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1100	1485	1,350	1,350	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	1000	1110	1,140	1,100	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,

Edberg, Lendl sorely tested, Shriver falls

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (R) — Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg, the top seeds in the \$415,000 Scottsdale classic men's tennis tournament, were tested Friday by unseeded opponents before advancing to the semi-finals.

Czechoslovak Lendl, the number one, fought his way through two close sets to defeat 17-year-old Yugoslavian Goran Ivanisevic 6-4, 6-4 in their quarterfinal tie.

Second seeded Edberg of Sweden narrowly averted disaster against unseeded American Kevin Curren before winning 6-4, 6-7, 6-4.

Lendl, the world's number one, will face Emilio Sanchez, ranked 17th, in Thursday's semi-finals. Fourth-ranked Edberg will play unseeded Amos Mansdorf, ranked 26th, in the other semi-final.

In the other quarterfinals, fifth seeded Sanchez made swift work of unseeded American Jim Courier 6-3, 6-3 and Mansdorf, playing a steady baseline game, upset sixth seeded American Brad Gilbert 5-7, 6-3, 6-0.

Edberg and Curren played an acrobatic match of serve and volley tennis which hung on a handful of points to give Edberg the victory. Edberg broke Correio in the sixth game of the first set and held onto the lead to serve it out 6-3.

But in the second set, the Swede was broken on a forehand crosscourt winner by Curren, giving the American a 4-2 lead. Curren held on to the advantage to serve out the set 6-3 with another forehand winner.

The third set was closely fought with both players returning well but missing crucial chances to break. Games went to 6-6 and the tiebreaker where Edberg got an early break with a blazing backhand down the line to go ahead 2-0.



Challenge of the unknown: Stefan Edberg squeaked through against unseeded Kevin Curren on the tiebreak of the final set.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Inter fine reduced on appeal to UEFA

ZURICH (R) — Italian league leaders Inter Milan gained a reduction to one of three fines which totalled a record 225,000 Swiss francs (\$143,000) when they appealed Friday to the European Football Union (UEFA). A UEFA appeals board reduced the largest fine of 150,000 francs (\$95,000) to 100,000 francs (\$63,000) after a hearing which lasted two and a half hours. The fines were imposed after incidents at the Italian soccer club's UEFA cup third round second leg tie against Bayern Munich in December when fans set off fireworks and started a fire. UEFA's disciplinary committee announced the fines in January when Inter were also penalised 25,000 francs (\$16,000) for their players' unsportsmanlike behaviour and 50,000 francs (\$32,000) for showing the match live on widescreen television in contravention of competition regulations.

East German fans took fireworks to game

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's youth daily called Saturday for a crackdown on soccer hooligans, saying Magdeburg fans evaded security and took cases full of fireworks to a recent first division match against Dynamo Dresden. Junge Welt noted a spate of violent incidents had occurred since East German soccer re-started last month after the winter break. It said the federation's disciplinary committee could not complain about lack of work. "It will have to be established how whole cases of pyrotechnics got through the turnstiles in the first place," the newspaper said. It called for better controls and tough penalties against clubs with inadequate security. The soccer federation has already appealed to clubs and fans to stamp out crowd trouble. A number of recent games have been interrupted after fans lobbed fireworks and other objects on to the pitch.

World champion Cooman beaten again

MADRID (R) — World 60 metres indoor champion Nelli Cooman of the Netherlands lost for the second time this week, finishing fourth behind U.S. winner Alice Brown in an indoor athletics meeting Friday. On the Madrid track where Cooman set her world record of 7.04 seconds in February 1986, Brown and Jamaican Merlene Ottey left the jaded-looking Dutch sprinter for dead from the gun. Brown won in 7.11 seconds with new world indoor 200 metres champion Ottey second in 7.22. Cooman, fourth behind Ottey, Brown and American Evelyn Ashford in Athens Wednesday, had to settle for fourth place again in 7.28.

Allofs refuses Beckenbauer's call

PARIS (R) — West German striker Klaus Allofs has refused a request from national coach Franz Beckenbauer to play for West Germany in a soccer friendly against Bulgaria on March 22. "He called me a few days ago but we have a French Cup game that day and after my long injury, I have to think about my club first," Allofs, who joined French League leaders Marseille from Cologne two years ago, told the sports daily L'Equipe. Allofs, who did not play for six months at the beginning of this season because of a knee injury, admitted he had personal problems with the West German coach. "I heard nothing from him when I was injured. It was not very nice but that's the way it goes in football," he said.

Syria defeats North Yemen 1-0

SANA, NORTH YEMEN (AP) — A second-half goal by Nizar Mahrous gave Syria a 1-0 win against North Yemen Friday in World Cup qualifying play. The halftime score was 0-0. A capacity crowd filled the Al-Thawra stadium for the West Asia group 2 clash, but the home team turned to an unimpressive performance in a slow-paced match. Syrian goalie Malek Shakour was occasionally tested, but the Yemenis long passes and strong kicks were brought off results. Mahrous picked up a long, low pass by George Khouri and tapped the ball past the diving North Yemeni goalkeeper, Amio Al-Sonaihi, in the 54th. Syria meets Saudi Arabia next Wednesday in Riyadh in the next West Asia group 2 qualifying match for the 1990 World Cup.

Forest beats Arsenal to reopen title fight

STANDINGS

LONDON (R) — Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest put the fizz back into the English League title chase by thrashing leaders Arsenal 3-1 Saturday.

English Division One

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Arsenal	28	16	7	5	53	28	55
Norwich	27	15	8	4	40	30	53
Millwall	27	13	7	7	40	31	46
Liverpool	25	11	9	5	36	20	42
Nottingham Forest	25	10	11	4	37	27	41
Coventry	27	11	8	8	35	27	41
Manchester United	25	10	9	6	35	21	39
Derby	26	11	6	9	30	25	39
Wimbledon	26	11	5	10	32	31	38
Tottenham	28	9	10	9	41	38	37
Everton	26	9	9	8	32	29	36
Middlesbrough	27	8	7	12	31	43	31
Queen's Park Rangers	27	7	9	11	26	25	30
Aston Villa	27	7	9	11	35	42	30
Luton	26	7	8	11	28	33	29
Southampton	27	6	11	10	39	51	29
Charlton	28	6	10	12	31	43	28
Sheffield Wednesday	27	6	9	12	22	37	27
Newcastle	26	5	7	14	23	46	22
West Ham	25	4	7	14	21	42	19

John Lukie from a tight angle and then England defender Stuart

Pearce, with a free kick, made it 3-1 in the 35th minute.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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EACH TRICK IN ITS TIME

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 6
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ Q 9 7
♦ J 10 5

WEST EAST
♦ A J 8 7 4 ♠ 10 9
♥ 6 2 ♠ Q 9 7 4
♦ 5 3 ♠ K 6
♦ 9 6 4 ♠ 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
♦ K 5 3
♥ K 5
♦ Q 10 8 4 2
♦ A K Q

The bidding: South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

In theory, a combined total of 26 points should produce game at no trump. One would think, therefore, that with 29 points distributed more or less evenly between the two hands, nine tricks would be a breeze. But see what can happen when declarer fails to take the proper precautions.

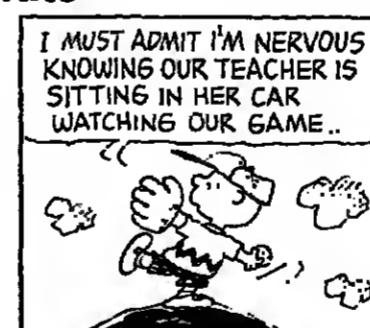
North checked for a possible 4-4

All declarer had to do was play a low spade from both hands to the first trick. Whether or not West wins the spade continuation is immaterial, as the cards lie. Declarer wins any return, comes to hand and takes the diamond finesse. When East wins the king he has no spade to return, and the contract is home.

After the first trick, declarer had to do was play a low spade from both hands to the first trick. Whether or not West wins the spade continuation is immaterial, as the cards lie. Declarer wins any return, comes to hand and takes the diamond finesse. When East wins the king he has no spade to return, and the contract is home.

SANA, NORTH YEMEN (AP) — A second-half goal by Nizar Mahrous gave Syria a 1-0 win against North Yemen Friday in World Cup qualifying play. The halftime score was 0-0. A capacity crowd filled the Al-Thawra stadium for the West Asia group 2 clash, but the home team turned to an unimpressive performance in a slow-paced match. Syrian goalie Malek Shakour was occasionally tested, but the Yemenis long passes and strong kicks were brought off results. Mahrous picked up a long, low pass by George Khouri and tapped the ball past the diving North Yemeni goalkeeper, Amio Al-Sonaihi, in the 54th. Syria meets Saudi Arabia next Wednesday in Riyadh in the next West Asia group 2 qualifying match for the 1990 World Cup.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOSOY

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Since his last birthday there's nothing else on his mind

CLUHG

Now arrange the circled letters as suggested by the above cartoon.

ARUSSE

Answer here: A

LIVOAJ

Answer here: A

Answer here: A

Saturday's **JUMBLE** BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Answer: All-night conversations tend to die just before this—THE “TAWN” (the dawn)

Answer: BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Answer: All-night conversations tend to die just before this—THE “TAWN” (the dawn)



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Activities may not move along as planned. Communications are difficult. Many ideas form, but are impossible to organize or express.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Family pressures have everyone's feathers ruffled. Not a good way to start a day, but a little patience will go a long way.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 19) Your diet plans may need to be put back on the track. Lower your expectations and keep within realistic limits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Activities will keep you on the go. Plan ahead, get the proper rest to carry out a busy week. Bargain shopping gets results today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You feel artistic and appreciative of what is beautiful and natural. Keeping appointments may be difficult.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Focus on games made with your own talents and efforts. Combine forces and share equally with your companion.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Today starts a cycle that will be favorable in changing a lifestyle.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Have faith in your own abilities. You are hard to live with when your self-confidence is low and needs to be propped up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A fix-up project around the home has its problems. An expert can explain what is hampering your progress.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A fix-up project around the home has its problems. An expert can explain what is hampering your progress.

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Paris battles... top: Jacques Chirac, bottom (left to right): Jacques Médecin, Dominique Baudis and Pierre Mauroy

French women slip into politics

PARIS (R) — French women, the outcasts of national political life, hope municipal elections this weekend will give them a chance to slip into politics through the back door.

France was one of the last countries to give women the vote, in 1944, and although 53 per cent of its voters are now women only 33 women sit in the 577-seat parliament, the lowest level of female representation in the European Community (EC) and 22nd in the world.

"We have nothing to be proud of, when you look around and see Margaret Thatcher, Cory Aquino and Benazir Bhutto," said former Conservative Minister Monique Pelletier, a fierce campaigner for women's rights.

Pelletier believes the two-round municipal polls starting Sunday are a chance for women to "discreetly but surely" enter the political stage.

In the last such vote six years ago women increased their representation in local politics from 8 to 14 per cent, three times the percentage of women in parliament.

But Pelletier also believes women can sharpen their political teeth working on the day-to-day issues arising in France's 36,500 town halls — more than in all of the 11 other EC nations put together.

"Women are more practical, closer to reality, she said in a guide to the municipal polls.

"When our male colleagues

vote to invest in prestige operations, we say we would prefer a creche or a nursery-school."

Radical feminists who only a few years ago turned their backs on such ballots are now eager to vie for election.

Twenty years after the birth of the country's women's liberation movement, one of its founders has launched a new movement aimed at giving women a fairer share of the political pie.

"The battle to give women their rightful share in policy-making will be one of the big issues of the next decade," said Antoinette Fouque, founder of the New Women's Alliance for Democratisation:

"The battle to give women their rightful share in policy-making will be one of the big issues of the next decade," said Antoinette Fouque, founder of the New Women's Alliance for Democratisation:

"When our male colleagues

Bush sees 'clear sailing' for Cheney through Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bush, moving past the political turmoil surrounding his first choice to head the defense department, predicts "clear sailing" for his nomination of Richard Cheney as defense secretary.

Moments after Bush's announcement Friday the Senate Armed Services Committee said it would begin confirmation hearings on Cheney, a 48-year-old congressman from Wyoming, next week.

He served as President Gerald Ford's top White House adviser in 1975 and 1976, when Ford was trying to restore presidential prestige after the Watergate scandal that drove Richard Nixon from office.

With a two-week recess looming in mid-March, a final vote in the Senate was not expected before April.

The Senate Thursday rejected Bush's first choice, John Tower, following days of bitter debate over the former senator's financial ties to defense contractors and allegations involving heavy drinking and womanizing.

Cheney, first elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, has been involved in budgetary and intelligence issues in his role as one of the top Republican leaders in Congress.

All five candidates had been nominated for the job in advance.

The first five deputies were named today at the enlarged plenum of the Central Council of All-Union Inventors and Innovators, which unites about 15 million people, TASS said.

"As members of the supreme legislature of the USSR they intend to actively promote acceleration of the socio-economic development of Soviet society and the USSR's progress in science and technology," it added.

According to the newspaper *Moskovskaya Pravda*, Abramov suggested the Moscow party should be more assertive in the elections by announcing whom it supports for parliament and whom it does not.

Over the next 11 days public organisations from the Communist Party to the Society of Philatelists, which are guaranteed a total of 750 seats under the new electoral law, will meet to select their deputies.

The suggestion by James A. Baker, then Reagan's chief of staff and now President George Bush's secretary of state, "was strongly countered" by other top officials at a meeting with Reagan, with the conclusion that Baker was wrong, testified McFarlane.

Still, Reagan said "we'll all be hanging by our thumbs" if word got out that McFarlane or other administration officials were indeed seeking help from abroad, McFarlane said.

The suggestion by James A. Baker, then Reagan's chief of staff and now President George Bush's secretary of state, "was strongly countered" by other top officials at a meeting with Reagan, with the conclusion that Baker was wrong, testified McFarlane.

There was no visible interplay between McFarlane, who is testifying for the prosecution, and North when McFarlane walked into the courtroom with his attorney.

McFarlane's face reddened at the start of his testimony when he was asked by chief prosecutor John Keker, "Did you try to commit suicide?"

"Yes," said McFarlane, looking at the jury, "on Feb. 9, 1987." That was shortly before release of a White House-ordered report on the Iran-contra affair and the beginning of congressional hearings.

McFarlane, who was sentenced last week to two years probation, 200 hours of community service and a \$20,000 fine for his role in the Iran-contra scandal, testified Friday he had tried to commit

Oliver North

suicide after the scandal became public, said he disapproved of North's suggestion to ask for doubled military aid to the contras from a Middle Eastern country at a time when Congress had made such aid illegal.

The Middle Eastern country, which McFarlane did not name, had been providing \$1 million a month in money for the contra war since July 1984, before Congress voted to cut off aid.

"I was not going to go and ask them for more money," McFarlane said, referring to the Middle Eastern country. "...We couldn't seek any money for military support."

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Tibetan unrest subsides

PEKING (R) — Chinese troops appeared to be firmly in control of Lhasa Saturday, as unrest subsided in the Tibetan capital and residents reported fewer arrests and no gunfire.

"Many arrests yesterday... today better," one Tibetan said in one of the few telephone calls connected to Lhasa Saturday, two days after virtually all foreigners were expelled from the region.

Lhasa was racked this week by three days of separatist riots which subsided when martial law went into force at midnight Tuesday. Official accounts say 16 people died in the violence, which began last Sunday, but doctors in Tibet put the figure at 30 and Tibetans say 60 died.

Wan Li, chairman of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, was quoted by state radio Saturday as saying that martial law had been "entirely necessary" and that it was supported by the overwhelming majority of Tibetans.

Lhasa residents reached by telephone said they were unaware of any shooting by police or stone throwing by separatists Saturday.

One resident said monasteries on the outskirts of Lhasa remained officially closed, as China sought to defuse any threat of further demonstrations which might follow Friday's 30th anniversary of the abortive 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

The official China News Service said late Friday more than 1,000 soldiers were patrolling the

streets of Lhasa, and mentioned a one-kilometre long convoy of 72 military vehicles carrying "fully armed troops."

It quoted a spokesman for the regional government as saying the heavy military presence would frighten any separatists waiting for an opportunity to resume protests.

The news service said Saturday that elementary and secondary schools were "enthusiastically preparing to resume classes as

soon as possible.

Similarly, the Communist Party newspaper the People's Daily, which had prominently reported three days of violence by separatists before martial law was imposed, reported the region as quiet late Friday night, putting its account on inside pages.

The New China News Agency said late Friday: "The nights are now quite... no more screams, no more sirens."

Peking appeared intent on underlining its frequently stated policy that Tibet is an internal affair, and that outsiders have no right to intervene.

In an unusual move the Foreign Ministry Friday summoned representatives of all members of

the European Community.

Apparently upset at the issue of Tibetan human rights being raised in the European Parliament this week, the ministry told the diplomats that it considered such action interference in China's internal affairs.

Peking also delivered a stern warning that tough measures would be taken to prevent chaos not only in Tibet but also against political dissidents elsewhere who have been demanding greater freedom.

The People's Daily warned that those who pushed too hard for political change were also risking social instability, directly linking the unrest in Lhasa with potential political dissent elsewhere.



Couple arrested for doing it on street

MEXICO CITY (R) — Police arrested a U.S. couple in the Mexican border town of Matamoros after catching them stark naked and making love on a main residential street, the official Notimex news agency said Friday. Notimex said the couple was arrested by Matamoros police as they made love on the main street of the Jardin residential neighbourhood Thursday night. The agency said the couple was among the 350,000 U.S. university students who flock to the Matamoros and Padre island, across the border in Texas, to take part in an annual week-long spring holiday festival beginning Saturday. The students are famed for their liberal behaviour and the Matamoros sanitation department annually notes a rise in the number of condoms and undergarments left on the city's streets, Notimex said.

Something for everyone in Milan

MILAN (AP) — The good news from the Milan winter runway, which kicks off a new fashion decade, is that women can wear what they like and still be in style. No single trend or style emerged in this week's showings of the Italian ready-to-wear collections for the fall-winter 1989-90. Rather, it was a mixed fashion bag full of good-looking clothes, which don't require a perfect body. Hemlines range from the thigh to the floor, skirts come in tight and loose versions, jackets tend to be short but can also be three-quarter, there are trousers for every taste and configuration, solid colours abound but so do plaid, floral and paisley prints. In

general the designers stay away from the sexy aggressiveness epitomised by the miniskirt — the Italian rage several seasons ago — to present a quieter, more casual style: dropped shoulders, long lunging lines and completely flat footwear. The colour scheme draws inspiration from the shades of an autumn forest: brown, moss green, burnt yellow and fiery blues and reds. Orange and shocking shades. Gray and black show up in every collection.

"Anything in between is pretty well broken up or hurt," said helicopter engineer Alan Whelton, who flew over the site. Cindy Borden, who lives near the airport, said: "I just went out to start my car. I heard it (the jet), then I didn't hear it any more."

Soviet elections begin

MOSCOW (R) — Elections to a new revamped Soviet parliament began Saturday with little fanfare as members of the Society of Inventors voted and filled the five seats that had been specially set aside for them.

While not a model of the multi-candidate voting urged by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the polling ushered in the elections to the Congress of People's Deputies, one chamber of a parliament intended as the centrepiece of his political reforms.

An anti-Boris Yeltsin campaign, meanwhile, appeared to be growing in the Soviet capital as the Moscow city Communist Party chief and others criticised the ideas of the fallen Kremlin radical, who is now running for parliament.

The official Soviet news agency TASS reported the results of the Society of Inventors' meeting in a brief report that said the ballot boxes were unsealed and the votes counted in the presence of election commission members and Soviet and foreign journalists.

All five candidates had been nominated for the job in advance.

"The first five deputies were named today at the enlarged plenum of the Central Council of All-Union Inventors and Innovators, which unites about 15 million people," TASS said.

"As members of the supreme legislature of the USSR they intend to actively promote acceleration of the socio-economic development of Soviet society and the USSR's progress in science and technology," it added.

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Up to 23 killed as plane explodes in north Ontario

DRYDEN, Ontario (R) — Up to 23 people died Friday when a jet carrying 69 people crashed and exploded in flames in northern Ontario shortly after taking off in a snowstorm, police said.

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) said 46 people survived the crash of the Air Ontario plane flying from Thunder Bay, Ontario, to Winnipeg. One person died in hospital and the remaining 22 people were presumed dead, police said.

The Fokker F-28 made a scheduled stop in Dryden, a town of 6,500 about 160 kilometres north of the U.S.-Canadian border, and crashed after taking off for Winnipeg.

Constable David Brayshaw, an OPP spokesman, said the jet ex-

ploded in flames on impact and broke into pieces.

Passenger Danny Godin said he felt "the plane quiver as we had an air disturbance." He said most of the people in the front of the plane did not get out.

Brayshaw said the plane was carrying 65 passengers and four crew members.

He said the number of people on board was determined from ticket sales. Earlier, the OPP had said the plane was carrying 61 people.

The plane cut a charred swath through the woods before coming to rest with only its nose and tail intact, a witness said.

"Anything in between is pretty well broken up or hurt," said helicopter engineer Alan Whelton, who flew over the site.

Cindy Borden, who lives near the airport, said: "I just went out to start my car. I heard it (the jet), then I didn't hear it any more."

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etelson

LETTER SUBSTITUTION
By Adam Christopher

ACROSS
1 Levy
4 Apper
5 Gaudie
12 Boulders closed
17 Table scraps
19 master
20 God's place
21 Bright song
22 The Boston —
27 Long way off
28 Flyby stuff
31 Term word
32 Womble
33 Turk title
34 Phases
35 Gob
36 Get away from
38 Artist
40 Arise

DOWN
1 Track figure
2 Green tree
3 Some school activities
4 Word
5 Scream
7 Railways
8 Copied
10 Copied
12 Long way off
13 Long way off
14 Bell and buck
15 Indian soldier
16 Bulling VIP
17 Cloth and Lashes
18 Milne or Paton
19 Fortification of a kind

22 Scent
23 Flies
24 Vessel
25 Zoo attraction
26 Cash
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84 Like a toady
85 Peacock
86 Zoo attraction
87 President
88 Car
89 Shipshape
90 Embroidered in
91 Embroidered in
92 Having no key
93 Acts property
94 "Act of God" (Shakespeare)
95 British
96 Ontario
97 Lake
98 Bruce
99 Conduct
100 Head
101 Cindy
102 Cindy
103 Cindy
104 Cindy
105 Cindy
106